

NEW TIMES (MOSCOW)

1 APRIL 1977

REPORTS • NOTES • C

FACING THE PAST

According to a U.S. naval tradition, each commanding officer, about a fortnight after entering upon his duties, presents a report to his superiors. Admiral Stansfield Turner, who has spent most of his life at sea, decided to follow the tradition ashore and, two weeks after entering upon his duties as CIA director, presented a report on the situation, true, not to his superiors, but to the vast TV audience of the CBS "Face the Nation" programme.

As a starter, the Admiral ventured to justify CIA practices of bribing foreign politicians—and also the bribing of U.S. Congressmen by the South Korean intelligence service: "It's a matter of bribery versus a matter of aid and support to a friend."

The Admiral then assured his listeners that "the morale, the attitude of the professionals ... in the CIA ... is quite good." Only two days later the CIA's "good attitude" was fully reflected in the U.S. President's report to Congress, proposing more activity against the socialist countries by the subversive CIA-supervised Liberty and Free Europe radio stations.

Evidently the Admiral thought his audience would be delighted when he told them that the CIA would no longer snoop after U.S. citizens at home. But his compatriots know the real price of such promises.

Turning to international affairs, the Admiral baffled his audience by claiming, on the one hand, that the U.S.S.R. was economically, ideologically and politically weak and, on the other, that despite this "weakness," the balance was gradually tilting in favour of the Soviet Union, which would certainly not let this opportunity slip to translate it into "political leverage on the rest of the world."

The Admiral certainly was not "facing the nation." Rather was he facing the past.

M. CHERNOUSOV